

AMENDMENTS**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions for performing an inventory management method that calculates a supplement amount of inventory at a specific day, wherein the method comprises:

a step for calculating a first sales plan amount from a standard day, prior to said specific day, to said specific day based on sales performance data comprising sales performance for a first period between the standard day and the specific day, and sales plan data comprising a sales plan amount for the first period;

a step for predicting a first inventory amount at said specific day based on said first sales plan amount, a second inventory amount at said standard day, and a warehousing amount from said standard day to said specific day;

a step for predicting a second sales plan amount of a second period ranging from said specific day through a number of following days required to deliver a merchandise, based on said first sales plan amount;

a step for calculating a sales fluctuation range amount by multiplying said second sales plan amount by a predetermined fluctuation range ratio, wherein the fluctuation range ratio is a pre-calculated value representing fluctuation of a past performance amount relative to a corresponding expected amount;

a step for calculating a lower limit inventory amount of said specific day as a sum of said second sales plan amount a standard value of lump-sum inventory and a standard value of ordinary inventory, wherein the standard value of ordinary inventory is based on calculated as a sum of at least said sales fluctuation range amount and said second sales plan amount; and

a step for calculating a supplement amount as a difference between the lower limit inventory amount of said specific day and said first inventory amount.

2. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said step for calculating the first sales plan amount comprises:

a step for calculating a sales performance ratio of each operating day based on said sales performance data;

a step for calculating an expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day, based on said sales performance ratio of each operating day; and

a step for calculating a sales plan amount until said specific day based on said expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day.

3. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said warehousing amount is calculated based on said supplement amount of said standard day to the day before the specific day.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said specific day is a day after the soonest day possible to supplement the inventory, when there is a new order.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises a step for respectively calculating a retrospective day that goes back a period, which is required to deliver the merchandise from the factory, before a delivery day of each of one or more blanket orders, and said step for calculating said lower limit inventory amount includes calculating with said sales fluctuation range and said second sales plan amount the lower limit inventory amount at said specific day, based on each order amount and said retrospective day of said one or more blanket orders.

6. (Currently Amended) An inventory management apparatus configured to calculate a supplement amount of inventory at a specific day, the apparatus comprising:

a storing unit that stores sales performance data sales performance data, and sales plan data; and

a controller configured to:

calculate a first sales plan amount from a standard day, prior to said specific day, to said specific day based on said sales performance data and said sales plan data;

predict a first inventory amount at said specific day based on said sales first plan amount, a second inventory amount at said standard day, and warehousing amount from said standard day to said specific day;

predict a second sales plan amount of the period from said specific day through a number of following days required to deliver a merchandise, based on said first sales plan amount;

calculate a sales fluctuation range amount by multiplying said second sales plan amount by a predetermined fluctuation range ratio, wherein the fluctuation range ratio is a pre-calculated value representing fluctuation of a past performance amount relative to a corresponding expected amount;

calculate a lower limit inventory amount at said specific day as a sum of ~~said second sales plan amount a standard value of lump-sum inventory~~ and a standard value of ordinary inventory, wherein the standard value of ordinary inventory is ~~based on calculated as a sum of at least~~ said sales fluctuation range amount and said second sales plan amount; and

calculate a supplement amount as a difference between the lower limit inventory amount of said specific day and said first inventory amount.

7. (Previously Presented) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said controller calculates a sales performance ratio of each operating day based on said sales performance data, calculates an expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day, based on said sales performance ratio of each operating day, and calculates said first sales plan amount until said specific day based on said expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day.

8. (Original) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said warehousing amount is calculated based on said supplement amount of said standard day to the day before the specific day.

9. (Original) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said specific day is a day after the soonest day possible to supplement the inventory, when there is a new order.

10. (Previously Presented) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said controller calculates a retrospective day that goes back a period, which is required to deliver the merchandise from the factory, before a delivery day of each of one or more blanket orders, and calculates with said sales fluctuation range and said second sales plan amount the lower limit inventory amount at said specific day, based on each order amount and said retrospective day of said one or more blanket orders.

11. (Currently Amended) A recording medium, which records an inventory management program for calculating a supplement amount of inventory at a specific day, wherein said inventory management program functions a computer as:

a first sales plan amount calculating means for calculating a first sales plan amount from a standard day, prior to said specific day, to said specific day based on sales performance data that stores the sales performance, and sales plan data that stores the sales plan;

a first inventory amount predicting means for predicting a first inventory amount at said specific day based on said first sales plan amount, a second inventory amount at said standard day, and warehousing amount from said standard day to said specific day;

a second sales plan amount predicting means for predicting a second sales plan amount of the period from said specific day through a number of following days required to deliver a merchandise, based on said first sales plan amount;

a sales fluctuation range calculating means for calculating a sales fluctuation range amount by multiplying said second sales plan amount by a predetermined fluctuation range ratio, wherein the fluctuation range ratio is a pre-calculated value representing fluctuation of a past performance amount relative to a corresponding expected amount;

a lower limit inventory amount calculating means for calculating a lower limit inventory amount at said specific day as a sum of said second sales plan amount a standard value of lump-sum inventory and a standard value of ordinary inventory, wherein the standard value of ordinary inventory is based on calculated as a sum of at least said sales fluctuation range amount and said second sales plan amount; and

a supplement amount calculating means for calculating a supplement amount as a difference between the lower limit inventory amount of said specific day and said first inventory amount.

12. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 11, which functions said first sales plan amount calculating means as:

a sales performance ratio calculating means for calculating a sales performance ratio of each operating day based on said sales performance data;

an expected sales performance ratio calculating means for calculating an expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day, based on said sales performance ratio of each operating day; and

a sales plan amount calculating means for calculating said first sales plan amount until said specific day based on said expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day.

13. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said warehousing amount is calculated based on said supplement amount of said standard day to the day before the specific day.

14. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said specific day is a day after the soonest day possible to supplement the inventory, when there is a new order.

15. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 11, which further functions said computer as retrospective day calculating means for respectively calculating a retrospective day that goes back a period, which is required to deliver the merchandise from the factory, before a delivery day of each of one or more blanket orders, and functions said lower limit inventory amount means as means for calculating with said sales fluctuation range and said second sales plan amount, the lower limit inventory amount of said specific day, based on each order amount and said retrospective day of said one or more blanket orders.